AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the paragraph at page 45, lines 13-17 as follows:

Serum levels of YKL-40 were measured in a clinical group of 60 breast cancer patients (aged 29-78 years) ~~(Johansen et al. (1993) Brit. J. Rheum. 32: 949-955)~~ using the RIA described in Example IV. For comparison, serum YKL-40 levels in a control group of 120 disease-free women (aged 18-69 years) were also measured. These latter measurements define the normal and median values referred to in this example.

Amend the paragraph at page 63, lines 17-32, as follows:

Colon cancer biopsies were fixed in 4% formaldehyde, embedded in paraffin, and cut at 5 μm. Prior to immunostaining sections were deparafinized. Briefly the following steps were included (at room temperature): The tissue was incubated for 15 min with H_2O_2 in methanol to block endogenous peroxidase activity. The tissues were then washed twice in Tris buffered saline (TBS) and non-specific binding was blocked by incubation for 10 min with 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA) (Sigma A-4503) in Tris buffered saline (TBS); Binding of primary antibody was performed for 30 min with an affinity-purified rabbit polyclonal IgG against human YKL-40 diluted in TBS containing 1% BSA (IgG concentration of the YKL-40 antibody was 0.0168 g/l). Non-immune rabbit serum (Dako X936, Copenhagen, Denmark) was used as negative controls in the same IgG concentration of 0.0168 g/L in TBS containing 1% BSA. The tissues were then washed 3 times with TBS and incubated for 30 min with goat anti-rabbit immunoglobulins conjugated to peroxidase labelled-dextran polymer in Tris-HCl (~~EnVision+™~~ ENVISION+™, Rabbit, Dako K4002). The tissue were washed twice in TBS and then incubated for 10 min with AEC (3-amino-9-ethylcarbazole) staining kit (SIGMA AEC101). The color reaction was stopped by washing in running tap water and the slides was mounted in Glycergel (Dako).

Amend the paragraph at page 66 line 29 through page 67 line 2 as follows:

The statistical analysis was done with ~~SPSS®~~ SPSS® (Statistical Package for the Social Science) Software and ~~MEDSTAT~~ MEDSTAT™. Results are given as median and range unless otherwise stated. Confidence intervals (CI), given for the median of a certain variable, were calculated at the 95% level. Comparison between groups was performed by the non-parametric Mann-Whitney test for

unpaired differences. Temporal differences within groups were tested by means of Wilcoxon´s matched-pairs signed rank sum test. Correlation analysis was based on the Spearman rho test. P values less than or equal to 0. 05 were considered to be significant.